

**REMARKS**

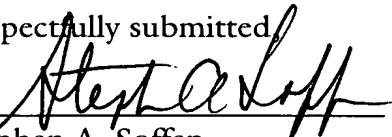
By this Preliminary Amendment, the claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies.

A prompt examination is earnestly solicited.

Dated: July 9, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By

  
Stephen A. Soffen

Registration No.: 31,063

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &  
OSHINSKY LLP

2101 L Street NW

Washington, DC 20037-1526

(202) 785-9700

Attorney for Applicant